



## HARRISON – MONONA – SHELBY EMPOWERMENT BOARD

### **VISION**

Our community will assist families in nurturing their children in a safe and supporting environment, which will provide the opportunity in preparing our children for a safe and healthy future.

### **MISSION**

To ensure the collaboration within our community that will provide our families with young children the resources and opportunities necessary to have the highest quality of life possible

### **Community Plan Priorities:**

The HMS CEA Community Plan has focused around four main priority areas:

- Provide a comprehensive program of parent support and education to families with children 0-5.
- Increase the availability of affordable quality childcare for all times of the day while improving connections between families and providers.
- Improve the quality of childcare through education and support to childcare providers.
- Provide an early childhood education experience to children before entering kindergarten.

### **HMS Empowerment role in Home-based child care and education:**

- *Step Up to QRS and Child Care Development Specialist* – Enhances the quality and capacity of child care for children ages 0-5 in all three counties. Additional funds are available to assist providers in the quest to improve the level of child care and education within their business. The Step Up to QRS allows the Child Care Development Specialist to enter the home of non-registered providers and provide guidance in becoming a registered provider. The Child Care Development Specialist works with the provider to improve the curriculum, schedules, and day-to-day functioning of the child care business.
- *Child Care Nurse Consultant* – Provides on-site child care assistance improving the quality care and education. Works closely with the Child Care Development Specialist to make sure providers meet all health and safety standards. Provides assessments for Quality Rating System.
- *Learning for Life Resource Centers* – Centers that provide parents and child care providers with the ability to access a variety of resources that are educationally sound and would serve as education tools. These resources would help build a solid educational foundation for children 0 – 5.
- *Health and Safety Grants* – Child care and education providers submit plans with the assistance from the Child Care Nurse Consultant and Child Care Development Specialist to the HMS Empowerment Board to help with any health and safety issues their business faces and prevents them from providing a safe environment.
- *Child Care and Education Training* – Providing additional training in more convenient places for providers to attend. In the rural area, providers lack the funds and supports to travel long distances for training. HMS Empowerment is making the effort to bring the training to the providers.
- *Transportation* – The HMS Empowerment Board is working hard to bring transportation to the area for home child care providers working with local preschools.

